



Province announces Stage 2 of Ontario's reopening plan

Earlier today, the provincial government announced that as of June 12, much of Ontario will be allowed to proceed to Stage 2 of the province's reopening plan. In those areas moving to Stage 2, most businesses will be allowed to reopen, as long as they implement appropriate health and safety protocols.

Moving to Stage 2 will be delayed to a later date (not yet specified) in some areas of the province where the COVID-19 caseload remains relatively higher. Areas that will remain in Stage 1 for now include:

- Durham Region Health Department
- Haldimand-Norfolk Health Unit
- Halton Region Public Health
- Hamilton Public Health Services
- Lambton Public Health
- Niagara Region Public Health
- Peel Public Health
- Toronto Public Health
- Windsor-Essex County Health Unit
- York Region Public Health

A complete list of affected regions and businesses is available on the [province's web page](#).

As the province moves to Stage 2, clinics may want to start considering whether they are ready to open their doors to allow clients inside. While clinics can still maintain curbside measures even through Stage 2, those that wish to allow clients inside the practice should consider the following:

- The number of positive COVID-19 cases in your area. If infections rates are high, maintaining curbside measures is *strongly* recommended. COVID-19 cases can be found on your local public health website.

- If the clinic can accommodate *all* social distancing measures required by the province.
- If staff have the appropriate PPE.
- If the practice owner or manager has discussed with staff the strategies that will be put in place to allow clients to enter the clinic safely to ensure they are comfortable with what will be done.

Practice owners are still responsible for ensuring the health and safety of their staff, clients and patients, while mitigating all possible risks of exposure to COVID-19.

As it has in the past, OVMA is working with Dr. Scott Weese to provide guidance to practices regarding how best to protect the health of both practice staff and clients moving forward. An updated guide, setting out guidance for practices during Stage 2 of the province's reopening plan, will be made available via NewsHound in the next day or so.

For more information on reopening recommendations see OVMA's [Guide to Reopening Veterinary Medicine in Ontario](#) and webinar on [Strategies for Dealing with Post-COVID Clients, Finances and Production](#).



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